

February 23, 2011

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

**Testimony of John Sylvester of Niantic in support of
H.B. No. 6131 AN ACT INCREASING THE FINE FOR OPERATING
A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT SUFFICIENT INSURANCE**

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, Members of the Transportation Committee, for the record my name is John Sylvester of Niantic and I am submitting written testimony in favor of HB6131--AN ACT INCREASING THE FINE FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT SUFFICIENT INSURANCE.

On Sunday, 8/28/10, I was involved in a hit and run accident on the Gold Star Bridge, which spans between New London and Groton. It was approximately 12:30PM. It had been raining earlier in the morning. I was driving northbound when a black SUV crossed two lanes and hit me in the rear passenger panel. This sent me into a 360 degree spin and I ended up southbound after hitting the other side of the bridge. The SUV never stopped. Another driver stopped and gave the State Policeman the license plate ID. At the hospital, later, the officer informed me he had found the vehicle in Groton. The driver's license was under suspension; he had no insurance and was on probation.

My insurance had to pay all the bills. \$1000 medical, over \$13,500 to repair my 2008 Hyundai Tuscon and my week's pay I lost from not working. I feel that if the penalties were more severe, it would deter motorists from driving without insurance. Maybe once the general public understands that the penalties are more severe; they will then realize how important it is to continue to carry car insurance. It is situations, like mine, that cause insurance to be so expensive.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

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